

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

GOLD MEDAL FOR JAPANESE
AMERICAN ARMY UNITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 347, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 347.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 0, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 266]

YEAS—411

Ackerman	Carney	Fortenberry
Aderholt	Carson (IN)	Foster
Adler (NJ)	Carter	Fox
Akin	Cassidy	Frank (MA)
Alexander	Castle	Frelinghuysen
Altmire	Castor (FL)	Fudge
Andrews	Chaffetz	Galleghy
Arcuri	Chandler	Garrett (NJ)
Austria	Childers	Gerlach
Baca	Clarke	Giffords
Bachmann	Clay	Gingrey (GA)
Bachus	Cleaver	Gohmert
Baird	Clyburn	Gonzalez
Baldwin	Coble	Goodlatte
Barrett (SC)	Coffman (CO)	Gordon (TN)
Barrow	Cohen	Granger
Bartlett	Cole	Graves
Barton (TX)	Conaway	Grayson
Bean	Connolly (VA)	Green, Al
Becerra	Conyers	Green, Gene
Berkley	Cooper	Griffith
Berman	Costa	Grijalva
Berry	Courtney	Guthrie
Biggert	Crenshaw	Gutierrez
Bilbray	Crowley	Hall (NY)
Bilirakis	Cuellar	Hall (TX)
Bishop (GA)	Culberson	Halvorson
Bishop (NY)	Cummings	Hare
Bishop (UT)	Dahlkemper	Harper
Blackburn	Davis (AL)	Hastings (FL)
Blumenauer	Davis (CA)	Hastings (WA)
Blunt	Davis (IL)	Heinrich
Boccheri	Davis (TN)	Heller
Boehner	Deal (GA)	Hensarling
Bonner	DeFazio	Herger
Bono Mack	DeGette	Herseth Sandlin
Boozman	DeLauro	Higgins
Boren	Dent	Hill
Boucher	Diaz-Balart, L.	Himes
Boustany	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hinche
Brady (PA)	Dicks	Hinojosa
Brady (TX)	Dingell	Hirono
Braley (IA)	Doggett	Hodes
Bright	Donnelly (IN)	Hoekstra
Broun (GA)	Doyle	Holden
Brown (SC)	Dreier	Holt
Brown, Corrine	Driebeaus	Honda
Brown-Waite,	Duncan	Hoyer
Ginny	Edwards (MD)	Hunter
Buchanan	Edwards (TX)	Inglis
Burgess	Ehlers	Inslee
Burton (IN)	Ellison	Israel
Butterfield	Ellsworth	Issa
Buyer	Emerson	Jackson (IL)
Calvert	Engel	Jackson-Lee
Camp	Eshoo	(TX)
Cantor	Etheridge	Jenkins
Cao	Fallin	Johnson (GA)
Capito	Farr	Johnson (IL)
Capps	Fattah	Johnson, E. B.
Capuano	Filner	Johnson, Sam
Cardoza	Fleming	Jones
Carnahan	Forbes	Jordan (OH)

Kagen	Miller, Gary	Schiff
Kanjorski	Miller, George	Schmidt
Kaptur	Minnick	Schock
Kennedy	Mitchell	Schrader
Kildee	Mollohan	Schwartz
Kilpatrick (MI)	Moore (KS)	Scott (GA)
Kilroy	Moran (KS)	Scott (VA)
Kind	Moran (VA)	Sensenbrenner
King (IA)	Murphy (CT)	Serrano
King (NY)	Murphy (NY)	Sessions
Kingston	Murphy, Patrick	Sestak
Kirk	Murphy, Tim	Shadegg
Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Murtha	Shea-Porter
Kissell	Myrick	Sherman
Klein (FL)	Nadler (NY)	Shimkus
Kline (MN)	Napolitano	Shuler
Kratovil	Neal (MA)	Shuster
Kucinich	Neugebauer	Simpson
Lamborn	Nunes	Sires
Lance	Nye	Skelton
Langevin	Oberstar	Slaughter
Larsen (WA)	Olson	Smith (NE)
Larson (CT)	Olver	Smith (NJ)
Latham	Ortiz	Smith (TX)
LaTourette	Pallone	Smith (WA)
Latta	Pastor (AZ)	Snyder
Lee (CA)	Paul	Souder
Lee (NY)	Paulsen	Space
Levin	Payne	Spratt
Lewis (CA)	Pence	Stearns
Lewis (GA)	Perlmutter	Stupak
Lipinski	Perriello	Sullivan
LoBiondo	Peters	Sutton
Loebach	Peterson	Tauscher
Lofgren, Zoe	Petri	Taylor
Lowey	Pingree (ME)	Teague
Lucas	Pitts	Terry
Luetkemeyer	Platts	Thompson (CA)
Lujan	Poe (TX)	Thompson (MS)
Lummis	Polis (CO)	Thompson (PA)
Lungren, Daniel	Pomeroy	Thornberry
E	Posey	Tiahrt
Lynch	Price (GA)	Tiberi
Mack	Price (NC)	Tierney
Maffei	Putnam	Titus
Maloney	Quigley	Tonko
Manzullo	Radanovich	Towns
Marchant	Rahall	Turner
Markey (CO)	Rangel	Upton
Markey (MA)	Rehberg	Van Hollen
Massa	Reichert	Velázquez
Matheson	Reyes	Visclosky
Matsui	Richardson	Walden
McCarthy (CA)	Rodriguez	Walz
McCarthy (NY)	Roe (TN)	Wamp
McCaul	Rogers (AL)	Wasserman
McClintock	Rogers (KY)	Schultz
McCollum	Rogers (MI)	Waters
McCotter	Rohrabacher	Watson
McDermott	Rooney	Watt
McGovern	Ros-Lehtinen	Waxman
McHenry	Roskam	Weiner
McHugh	Ross	Welch
McIntyre	Rothman (NJ)	Westmoreland
McKeon	Roybal-Allard	Wexler
McMahon	Royce	Whitfield
McMorris	Ruppersberger	Wilson (OH)
Rodgers	Rush	Wilson (SC)
Meek (FL)	Ryan (OH)	Wittman
Meeks (NY)	Ryan (WI)	Wolf
Melancon	Salazar	Woolsey
Mica	Sanchez, Loretta	Wu
Michaud	Sarbanes	Yarmuth
Miller (FL)	Scalise	Young (AK)
Miller (MI)	Schakowsky	Young (FL)
Miller (NC)	Schauer	

NOT VOTING—22

Abercrombie	Franks (AZ)	Pascarell
Boswell	Harman	Sánchez, Linda
Boyd	Kosmas	T.
Campbell	Linder	Speier
Costello	Marshall	Stark
Davis (KY)	McNerney	Tanner
Delahunt	Moore (WI)	Tsongas
Flake	Obey	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1620

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEDAL OF HONOR COMMEMORATIVE
COIN ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1209.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1209.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 848

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor from H.R. 848.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland, the majority leader, for the purpose of announcing next week's schedule.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

On Monday, Madam Speaker, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 10:30 a.m. for morning-hour debate and 12 p.m. for legislative business.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business.

On Friday, as is our custom, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. A complete list of suspension bills will be announced by the end of business tomorrow.

In addition, we will consider H.R. 2200, the Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act, H.R. 2352, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009 out of the Small Business Committee, and House amendments to S. 896, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I would ask the gentleman if he could tell us which days he expects the House to consider the

bills that he has just announced, and I would yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that question.

We are not sure exactly which days which bill will be considered, but I think they will probably be considered in the order that they are listed. But whether they will be Wednesday and Thursday or Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, I'm not exactly sure. The suspension bills will probably be considered most of Tuesday. I might also say, as the gentleman knows, there are a number of bills pending that may come from conference, and we will address those bills when and if they do come back.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I would say to the gentleman, as he knows, the House will break for Memorial Day recess at the end of next week, and since we will not have another colloquy before that recess, I wonder if the majority leader could outline what he expects the House to consider during the 4 weeks that we are in session in June.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

First let me say to all Members that I advise them to advise their schedulers not to schedule Fridays in June or July. We're off, obviously, for a week in July for the July 4 work period, but other than that, I would urge all Members to make sure their schedulers understand that we may well be here late into afternoons on each and every one of the Fridays. Now, why? First of all, we're going to consider the Defense Authorization bill and the State Department Authorization bills. But in addition to that, we will be considering the appropriation bills.

It is my hope and objective—and Mr. Whip, you and I have briefly talked and we are going to talk again about the scheduling of these bills—to pass all of the appropriations bills, as Senator INOUE has indicated he would like to do as well, pass all the appropriations bills, individually, through the Senate and through the House so that we might conference those bills and have them on the floor in the regular order. Those, obviously, 12 bills will take up much of those 2 months.

In addition to that, of course, the committees are considering major pieces of legislation dealing with energy independence and global warming, as well as health care. Now, we do not know whether or not they might be ready for the floor or when they might be ready for the floor, but Members ought to know that those are bills that are clearly on our radar screen to be put on the agenda when they are ready.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman. And as he has indicated, the cap-and-trade bill and health care reform are items that he indicated may or may not be considered in June, but perhaps during the 2-month period of June and July. But,

Madam Speaker, the gentleman did not mention the Panama Trade Agreement or Card Check, and I was wondering if the gentleman, the majority leader, could tell us his expectations as to whether the House will be considering those measures over the next 4 weeks after the Memorial Day recess.

I yield.

Mr. HOYER. I think that, with respect to both those bills, obviously the Senate is discussing the Employee Free Choice Act and whether or not they are going to be moving ahead on that. We hope they will. We believe this is a very important and good piece of legislation, but we also know that there are discussions in the Senate with respect to the various provisions of that bill.

□ 1630

This House, as the gentleman knows, passed that bill pretty handily through the House last year, in the last Congress. So we are hopeful that the Senate will take action and the bill will be in a form that will be effected.

With respect to the Panama Canal Treaty, that has not been submitted by the administration yet, and we will have to wait to see when they will submit that bill. I do know, as you know, that Mr. KIRK has indicated that the administration has discussed the possibility of submitting that trade agreement.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I further say to the gentleman, the majority leader, that we've had a discussion on the floor today about the potential transfer and release of terrorist detainees from Guantanamo Bay. There's also been significant debate on the interrogation of these terrorist suspects, including the potential for congressional hearings and possible legislation.

I say, Madam Speaker, to the gentleman, the Speaker of the House has signaled her intent to create a truth commission to investigate CIA interrogation tactics. I was wondering, Madam Speaker, if the gentleman could tell us the status of that truth commission and when we might expect such a commission to be formed and perhaps produce legislation that would come to the House floor to be voted upon.

Mr. HOYER. There has been discussion of such a commission. I have supported such a commission. The Speaker has discussed it as well, as the gentleman correctly points out. At this point in time, however, there has been no action taken on the creation of such commission.

So at this point in time, I certainly wouldn't anticipate when and if legislation might come to the floor. I would not be surprised if committees of Congress, however, did, in fact, take cognizance of both of the issues the gentleman raises, and there might possibly be legislation from committees. The commission is under active consideration.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I would say to the majority leader that there is a concern on this side of the aisle to make sure that any investigation, if there is a creation of a truth commission, as the Speaker has indicated she would like to see, that there be a process by which a clear discussion, if you will, revelation as to whether Members of Congress, which Members of Congress and maybe the Speaker herself was briefed on the process, on the interrogation tactic of waterboarding and would ask the gentleman, is it his intention that if such a commission were to be formed that type of open process would be followed?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I certainly think that an open process would be followed.

But let me say to the gentleman, as I have said in the press, and he may have read it, much has been said about who knew what, when and where. Very frankly, my view is what the substance of this issue is what was done, why was it done, and was it done consistent with the law.

There is much opinion that it was a violation of the law and a violation of international law. That is the issue that this country needs to look at. That is the issue that this country needs to examine so that going forward, this country makes a determination as to what is lawful conduct.

In fact, of course, the former President of the United States made it very clear and enunciated, this country does not torture. The problem with that representation, as the gentleman clearly knows, is that many legal experts have indicated that, in fact, torture occurred. So from that perspective, I would tell my friend that what ought to happen is we ought to look at the substance of whether, who knew what, when, why is a distraction. That is my view, I will tell my friend. It is a beating on the table.

What we really need to do is find the facts of what was done, what was the rationale for doing it, was it legal; if it was not legal, why did we pursue it; and was it consistent with our international obligations. And as so many generals have indicated, do we want to subject our own people to such conduct when and if they may be in custody by a foreign power or terrorist?

So I say to my friend that I understand the beating on the table, if you will. But from my own personal perspective, that's not the issue on either side of the aisle, who knew what or when they knew it. What is the issue is what was done. That is my presumption of what a commission would do. I presume as well that committees of this Congress may be interested in that.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

I think there is certainly a concern to ensure that all laws have been followed. Certainly our primary concern is to make sure that we are protecting Americans in everything we do. And given the growing threat globally, the

terrorist threat that we face, all of us share in that end.

But I would say to the gentleman that somehow there have been statements made by the Speaker and others indicating a certain preconceived bias, like a belief that perhaps the CIA or others have somehow misled us.

I do think the gentleman is correct in saying that we need to focus on what kind of practices occurred, but I also think that in an ongoing manner, to ensure compliance with the law, we need to understand if there is some type of preconceived bias, as was indicated in some of the public statements that may have been made today. And I do think that the gentleman would agree, openness and an indication of a predisposition prior to the revelation now of who knew what when may be somehow shaping the bias in these discussions.

I share with the gentleman the notion, we need to follow the law. But if there is somehow a belief—and I'd ask the gentleman whether he shares this belief—that somehow the CIA or others have intentionally misled this body, because that seems to be some concern that has been raised today.

I yield.

Mr. HOYER. I have no idea of that. I don't have a belief of that nature because I have no basis on which to base such a belief. I certainly hope that's not the case. I don't draw that conclusion.

What I say to the gentleman, once again, is that to a degree, that is a distraction. It is not irrelevant, but it is a distraction from the central point. I will tell my friend that I think there is far too much discussion about what was said as opposed to what was done.

The truth commission I think has a responsibility—or whatever we call a commission that would look at this issue—not so much for what was done but to ensure that what we do going forward is legal, consistent with our values, consistent with our morals, and consistent, as the gentleman points out, with protecting our Nation and our people.

In my view, we have a responsibility to do all of those. In my view, we can do all of those. They are not inconsistent with one another. And that is what I think we ought to be looking at as we look at what happened so that what happens in the future—because certainly this Nation is going to be under threat now and in the future. I think it's very important. I frankly think that upholding our values is consistent with also protecting our security.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

I remain concerned. And I think it is shared by my colleagues on this side of the aisle that if it is the intent of the Speaker and the majority leader to pursue a truth commission surrounding the investigation of terrorists and the interrogation tactics employed, that we do know what interaction this body had, the Members of this body and its

committees had, in the oversight of the tactics that were employed. Because if we are all concerned about following the law, which we should be first and foremost here, and if there was acquiescence, if there was knowledge on the part of this body, but yet now allegations made suggesting that certain tactics were used and were against the law, that raises serious questions about the ability for this body going forward to properly exercise its oversight authority so we do uphold the law.

That would be our concern over here, Madam Speaker, that we make sure that there is a full vetting of what transpired so that we don't repeat the type of mistakes perhaps or we don't repeat the omission of action, if you will, on the part of this body.

With that, Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. tomorrow, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning-hour debate, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title;

H. Con. Res. 80. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha.

(Mr. ADLER of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the struggles of our seniors and our veterans. These are tough economic times. Many New Jersey families, seniors and veterans are struggling to make ends meet. That's why I'm pleased to know that seniors and disabled veterans are receiving a \$250 economic recovery payment this month. We have to make sure our seniors and our veterans receive the benefits and relief they need and so richly deserve.

When I reviewed the first draft of the economic recovery package, I realized that retired seniors and disabled vet-

erans were completely excluded from receiving any tax rebate. I worked quickly to fix this oversight, introducing the Safeguarding America's Seniors and Veterans Act which was included in the final recovery package enacted into law. Fortunately, New Jersey seniors and disabled veterans will now be receiving \$250 in tax relief this month.

During these tough economic times, we must ensure that we take care of our seniors and our veterans, those who have made our country so great and kept us safe and free. These \$250 checks have already started arriving in homes in Burlington and Ocean Counties and in Cherry Hill and are making a great difference in the lives of our seniors.

I'm happy to be part of this process.

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate a remarkable young woman from my district, Lauren Zumbach, who was just announced as a 2009 Presidential Scholar.

The Presidential Scholar program annually recognizes 141 of the Nation's most exemplary high school seniors who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance as well as exemplary leadership, citizenship and community service. Lauren embodies all of these traits.

A poised and confident young woman, Lauren is a leader both in and out of the classroom. As a student athlete at Hinsdale Central High School, Lauren has been a straight A student while contributing to her championship cross-country team.

Her accomplishments do not end there. Outside of the classroom, Lauren has organized work days to improve local forest preserves. She has worked to instruct area children about safe online behavior. And just last fall, Lauren was the impetus behind Trot for the Troops, a 5K race that raised money for the Illinois chapter of Operation Homefront.

In a few weeks, Lauren will graduate from Hinsdale Central High School, and I congratulate her on receiving the 2009 Presidential Scholar award.

□ 1645

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, last week, the Obama administration increased its budget deficit projection to more than \$1.8 trillion and then promptly blamed the deficit on former President Bush. Most of the national